

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
May 26, 2015

MINUTES

I. The May meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland by Chair Angela Spencer.

An invitation was given to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. The following members were present at the meeting: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Georgia McCauley, Mari Lee, Jack Thomas, Felicia Turner, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, Irene Packer Halsey and Yemi Adeoye.

The following members were absent: Annette Breiling

The following liaison members were present: Kathleen Hartsock and Jessica Fitzwater.

Guests present were: Anastasia Rosen Jones, Lt. Thomas Tokarz and Chief Patrick Grossman.

III. Meeting Minutes approval

Upon a motion by Kavonte Duckett and a second by Mari Lee and membership vote, the April minutes were approved with one change.

IV. Comments from the Public

Anastasia spoke about the Kids and Cops Event and asked for volunteers to be facilitators and also mentioned her organization is looking for computers and equipment.

Angela stated that she had not received any questions from any of the HRC members regarding the report that was submitted from the FPD. She asked Lt. Tokarz if they had researched other counties to find out what they are doing regarding the hiring of minorities.

Lt Tokarz went over some critical items he felt were important regarding the report they submitted at the last meeting.

- Affirmative Action Plan – Most of the people who apply to be FPD officers range in age from 24 to 44. The available minority labor force is actually 10.58 % in that age range. According to the settlement the FPD needs to hire an additional 5 or 6 minority individuals.

- They had 1256 applicants for the 56th academy; 341 were minority and 231 of them failed to make it through the process for various reasons. At the end they had 1 eligible minority applicant and they took a job somewhere else.
- Recruitment – The FPD has a plan that is looked at every year to make sure it is working. FPD now has the availability to pre hire and that will help keep good recruits from going elsewhere.
- Community Relations Officer – A new position that reports to the Chief about what is going on in the community.
- Sensitivity Training – They have extensive training going on all of the time. They add and subtract from the training as needed. They are soon going to start a training focusing on Character, Ethics and Morals.
- Screening of applicants – All applicants are thoroughly screened.

Angela would like to schedule a work session to discuss the report and to share more information.

V. Officers' Reports

Executive Committee

- Yemi Adeoye shared that he has enjoyed his time and has made friends and treasured the experience. He extended his sincere appreciation to the commission.
- Angela Spencer stated that we have another involved month and opportunities to volunteer.
- There are a couple of applicants that have applied for the openings on the board. Please let people know there are 3 openings. Applicants need to send information to Joyce Grossnickle.

Treasurer's Report

There is \$ 2,989.06 available to the HRC as of today.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee

Lisa spoke about the items that the HRC would like to order for approval from the HRC. Pat is working on the Naturalization Ceremony with the new contact.

Government Relations Committee

The GRC will be meeting in June. Georgia reported on Legislative Bills. She was asked by Angela Spencer to e-mail the information to the HRC members.

Internal Relations Committee

The IRC will be meeting in June to start planning the Jr. HRC.

David Kaye spoke about the Fair Housing Conference tomorrow night at the library that he is prepared to present. Tonya is trying to get a group together from the Housing Authority.

VII. New Business

A motion was made by Mari Lee and a second made by David Kaye to reappoint Kavonte Duckett and Francisco Alvez to the commission. Letters of recommendation will be sent to Joyce Grossnickle to be presented to the County Council.

There was a discussion about the giveaway items. It was suggested that the phone number be added to the items and pens be bought as well. A motion made by Kavonte Duckett to accept the promotional items with corrections and also to order ink pens.

The Nomination committee submitted the following slate of officers:

Angela Spencer, Chair

Tonya Amedon, Vice Chair

David Kaye, Parliamentarian

Mari Lee, Treasurer

Lisa Clark, Member at Large

Any additional nominations can be made at the next meeting and a deciding vote will also be made at that time.

VIII. HRD Director's Report

Miles hopes that everyone will turn out for the Fair Housing event at the library tomorrow night.

There was excellent attendance at the meeting tonight.

No new complaints this month. The HRD receives calls every day for guidance.

There are 3 positions open for the HRC. Miles asked that the members start recruiting new members.

IX. Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 - 6:00pm - Understanding your Rights under the Fair Housing Laws – C. Burr Artz Public Library

Saturday May 30, 2015 - 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Asian American Month Celebration – Frederick Community College

Saturday, May 30, 2015 – Planting Hope Community Outreach 8:00 – 3:00 pm – Frederick Fairgrounds

Sunday, June 14, 2015 - 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Vietnam panel discussion at Artz Library – focusing on Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*

Thursday, June 18, 2015 - 7pm - Proclamation of June as LGBTQ Pride Month, at Frederick City Hall, 101 N Court St, Frederick.

Saturday, June 20, 2015 - Asbury United Methodist Church Block Party – 11am – 3pm – one block of West all Saints Street between Court and Bentz Streets

Saturday, June 20, 2015 3 pm – 5 pm – Coffeehouse Conversation on Race Relations at Dublin Roasters Coffee, 1780 N Market St, Frederick, MD 21701. “Kids and Cops in Conversation” For more info, and to confirm the start time for this and other Zones of Peace events: <http://zonesofpeacenh.blogspot.com/2015/01/coffee-house-conversations-on-race.html>

Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 12 pm – 6 pm - Frederick Pride – “Out on the Creek” — at Carroll Creek Park in downtown Frederick

Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18, 2015

Nelson Mandela Day - UNESCO is hosting events to honor this international day for Nelson Mandela. On Friday, July 17, there will be events on stage in Baker Park, beginning in late afternoon. On Saturday, July 18, there will be speakers, awards, a dinner and other activities at Frederick Community College.

Saturday, July 25, 2015–

Centro Hispano’s 4th annual fundraiser/festival - from 5-midnight - at the Adamstown Carnival grounds; 2700 Washington Street in Adamstown, MD 21710

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

National Night Out – Will be conducted at several locations in Frederick, TBD.

Saturday, September 12, 2015 – In the Street Festival – 10:00am – 6:00pm – Downtown Frederick

Saturday, October 24, 2015 - 8 am - 3 pm - 8th Annual Frederick Community Health Fair. It will be held at the Eventplex at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Asian American Center of Frederick and Frederick Memorial Hospital

X. Sharing

Lisa Clark – Thanked the FPD for the presentation and can make herself available to attend any trainings on behalf of the HRC.

Felicia Turner – Thanked the FPD for the presentation. Recruitment is not just for the police it is for every department in the County and City.

Jack Thomas – He did not like the FPD using the word fail and suggested a possible Jr. Cadet program to recruit from.

Francisco Alves – Reported he was sorry he could not make the retreat, but remembered from last year it was a memorable event. He is looking forward to the Human Trafficking Event.

Lt. Tokarz – Reminded everyone about the June 26, 2pm Graduation at TJ High School.

Tonya Amedon – Reported she also did not like the word fail and she would like to see at what point the applicants dropped from the process. She thanked the FPD for their time and efforts and she said she remembers as a child how Frederick used to be and we have come a long way but have a long way to go.

Mari Lee – She suggested a police auxiliary unit at age 18 so by the time they hit 21 they could be ready to go as an officer.

Kathleen Hartsock – She gave her card to Lt. Tokzar since she is connected with the School System she may be able to assist with programs. ROTC will be started at TJ High this year.

Chief Grossman - Reported that the dialog being conducted tonight is what they need to hear to revive some old ideas and start some new ones.

Miles Ward - He thanked the FPD for their hard work.

Kavonte Duckett– Reported that the March on Frederick was good they made it to the destination successfully and beat the rain. He has accepted the challenge to apply to the City PD and go through the process. He would like to see if the County could supply statistics like the City does.

David Kaye – Reported that it was a good presentation by the FPD. He thanked the FPD for their restraint in stressful situations.

Irene Packer-Halsey – She thanked the FPD and has information she has been using for years from the Kellogg foundation that she can offer. Demographics are changing and would like that we refer to minorities as People of Color instead. She would like to see a HRC youth academy to turn the youth around. She is also concerned about the youth at the Victor Cullen Center and would like to see something done to reach out to the juveniles housed there.

Angela Spencer - She referred to the Ouch training. She likes the reference to People of Color. The Executive Committee met with Ms. Patterson about her son and what happened in Thurmont. Ms. Patterson thought there should be more education about guns and gun use.

“When you extend yourself in kindness and spirit it comes back to you.” Oprah Winphrey

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes were submitted by the Human Relations Department